IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masaaki YAMAGUCHI et al.

Application No.: 10/735,671

Filed: December 16, 2003

Docket No.: 118121

EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INTERNAL **COMBUSTION ENGINE**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- \boxtimes This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- \boxtimes 2. The references were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information. (Refs. 1-4)
- \boxtimes 3. The present application was filed or entered the U.S. National Stage of the PCT after June 30, 2003. In accordance with the June 11, 2003, Notice waiving the requirements of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached. (Ref. 1)

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 28, 2004

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE **AUTHORIZATION** Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461

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OPE (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Masaaki YAMAGUCHI et al.					
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THAT!	<u> </u>	U.S. I	PATEN	T DOCU	MENTS				
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DA	ATE	NAME	-	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
	1	6,145,303	11/14/2000		STREHLAU et al.				
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	2	WO 01/00976 A1	01/04/	/2001	WIPO				
	3	DE 198 51 843 A 1	05/11/	/2000	Germany				
	4	DE 198 27 195 A 1	12/23/	/1999	Germany				
- The -	_	OTHER DOCUMENTS (Inc	luding	Author,	Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)				
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conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in

DATE CONSIDERED

Date: April 28, 2004

EXAMINER

Examiner: